

Application No. 09/808,524
Amendment dated November 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated June 05, 2003

1. (Currently Amended) A weatherseal assembly comprising:
a weatherseal having a base region defined by a surface adapted to sealingly engage an associated vehicle body structure, and a first cavity defined by a rib spaced a first dimension from the surface, and a bulbous seal portion;
a fastening peg having a self-piercing end adapted to pierce the surface of an ~~associated~~the weatherseal;
a helical flange substantially circumscribing ~~the~~ a nose;
a shoulder axially spaced from the flange a dimension greater than the dimension of the weatherseal surface whereby the flange and shoulder are disposed on opposite faces of the surface to engage the fastening peg to the weatherseal without compressing the surface; and
a locking assembly disposed adjacent the shoulder and adapted to secure the fastening peg to an associated vehicle body structure.

2. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 1 wherein the ~~pointed~~-nose includes a thread.

3. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 1 wherein the ~~pointed~~-nose is conically shaped for piercing and advancing through an associated weatherseal.

4. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 1 wherein the helical flange includes a leading portion that spirals radially and circumferentially outward from the ~~pointed~~ nose.

5., 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 6 wherein the helical flange merges into the ~~pointed~~-nose at a location spaced axially inward from a terminal end of the ~~pointed~~-nose.

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8. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 7 wherein the helical flange includes a leading portion that spirals axially, radially and circumferentially from the pointed nose.

9. (Original) The fastening peg of claim 8 wherein the helical flange terminates in a radial edge.

10. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 9 wherein the radial edge is located approximately 360° from where the helical flange merges into the pointed-nose.

11. (Currently Amended) In combination,
an elastomeric weatherseal; and
a molded plastic fastening peg adapted to form an opening in the elastomeric weatherseal and secure the weatherseal to a vehicle, the fastening peg comprising:

a nose portion at a first end terminating in a piercing conical point;
a flange spaced axially from the conical point and including a leading portion that extends axially from adjacent the nose portion;
a circumferentially continuous shoulder axially spaced from the flange; and
a locking assembly spaced on an axial opposite side of the shoulder from the flange, including first and second flexible arms extending radially outward therefrom.

12. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 11 wherein the leading portion of the fastening peg flange radially, axially, and circumferentially merges into the nose portion.

13. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 12 wherein the leading portion of the fastening peg flange merges into the nose portion at a region axially spaced from the conical point.

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Previously Amended) The combination of claim 11 further comprising a base on the fastening peg configured for handling by automated machinery.

16. (Previously Amended) A method of attaching a weatherseal to a vehicle comprising the steps of:

providing a fastening peg having enlarged first and second flanges spaced apart by a first dimension;

piercing the weatherseal with the fastening peg to form an opening in the weatherseal of a diameter less than the first and second flanges;

partially advancing the fastening peg through a second dimension less than the first dimension whereby the first flange passes through the weatherseal opening and the second flange does not pass through the weatherseal opening; and

wherein the advancing step includes rotating the fastening peg at a first rotational velocity to form the opening in the weatherseal, and subsequently rotating the fastening peg at a slower, second rotational velocity to advance a portion of the fastening peg into a first cavity of the weatherseal.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 comprising the further step of securing the fastener in an opening formed in the vehicle.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the securing step includes axially advancing the fastener in the vehicle opening.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 comprising the further step of mechanically gripping one end of the fastening peg.

21. (Canceled)

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22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the advancing step is terminated after the first flange has advanced through the weatherseal opening.
